





# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program 2009





Name: David Gronsbell

Title: Regional Fire Program Specialist - Contractor

Work Location: DHS/FEMA Region II – Grant Programs Branch

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

26 Federal Plaza, Room 1307

New York, NY 10278

#### **Methods of Contact:**

**Office:** Ph: (732) 427-1524

Fax: (732) 427-1490

Email: david.gronsbell@associates.dhs.gov

FEMA

# Grants Administered by AFG Program Office

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)



Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)



Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Research and Development (FP&S)



# Total 2009 Appropriation \$775 million

AFG

**\$565** million\*

SAFER

\$210 million

\* Includes an allocation of \$35 million for FP&S

#### Introduction

- 2009 AFG Program Overview
- Application and Electronic Scoring
- Developing a Comprehensive Narrative
- Exercise
- SAFER
- Fire Prevention & Safety
- Grants Management



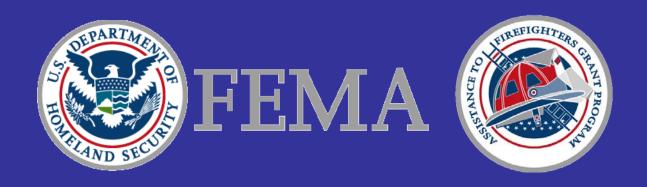


#### Introduction

Please raise your hand if you fall into one of the following categories:

- I represent an organization that has never applied for an AFG Grant.
- I represent an organization that has applied for an AFG Grant but never been awarded.
- I am individual who has never applied for an AFG grant.

### 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants



### **Assistance to Firefighters Grants**

#### Purpose

Protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and all other hazards.

## **Assistance to Firefighters Grants**

#### Eligible Applicants

- Fire departments
- Nonaffiliated EMS organizations

# Assistance to Firefighters Grants

There are three program areas under AFG

- Vehicle Acquisition
- Operations and Safety
- Regional Projects



#### Vehicle Acquisition Activity



- Awards are capped at 25% of the appropriation.
- Specific priorities based on type of community served and other department characteristics.

#### **Fire Apparatus Priorities**

Priority	Urban Communities	Suburban Communities	Rural Communities
1	Pumper Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial 76' or >) Rescue	Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial 76' or >)	Pumper Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Quint (Aerial <76')
2	Command HazMat Light/Air Rehab Foam Truck	Command HazMat Rescue Tanker/Tender Brush/Attack Foam Truck	Rescue Light/Air Aerial Quint (Aerial 76' or >)
3	ARFFV Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Ambulance Fire Boat ATV	ARFFV Rehab Light/Air Ambulance Fire Boat ATV	Foam Truck ARFFV Rehab Command Ambulance Fire Boat ATV

#### **EMS Vehicle Priorities**

Priority One	Priority Two	Priority Three
(transport unit) to support EMT-B needs and functions	First Response Unit (non-transport, chase unit)	Command Vehicle Hovercraft
	Operations vehicles (HAZMAT, rescue)	Other Specialty

## **Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

#### **Operations and Safety Activities**

- Training
- Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Modifications to Facilities
- Wellness/Fitness Services

## Assistance to Firefighters Grant

#### **Regional Applications**

- Eligible applicants may act as a host for a regional application.
- Regional projects are designed to facilitate interoperability and efficiency among participants.
- Standardization does NOT necessarily equate to interoperability.

# Assistance to Firefighters Grant

### Requires a **local cash match** based on population served

Under 20,000 population 5%

20,000 - 50,000 population 10%

Over 50,000 population 20%

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Maximum Federal Funding
<a href="Population">Population</a>
<a href="Federal Funding">Federal Funding</a>

Less than 500,000 \$1,000,000

500,000 - 1,000,000 \$1,750,000

More than 1,000,000 \$2,750,000

### Questions?





#### 2009 AFG Program

- All applicants may submit three separate applications:
  - 1. Vehicle Acquisition
  - 2. Operations and Safety Activities
  - 3. Regional project
- Population protected and call volume are factors considered for all activities.

#### 2009 AFG Program

 Previous vehicle awardees <u>are eligible</u> for another vehicle award in 2009.

 Urban/suburban applicants may request multiple vehicles on the same application.

#### **Training**

- Fire department applicants must indicate the percentage of active firefighters trained to NFPA 1001.
- Fire department applicants that have less than 100% of active firefighters trained to NFPA 1001 will be asked to explain their plans to meet the standard.
- These questions will be asked for every activity.

#### **Personal Protective Clothing**

- Applicants will be asked to provide significant detail in their requests regarding existing equipment inventory.
- The age of existing equipment will be considered in all phases of review.



## Self Contained Breathing Apparatus





- Applicants with significant numbers of SCBA that are old are a high priority.
- Applicants with SCBA that are compliant with the more current editions of NFPA 1997 are a low priority.

#### Regional Applicants

The following activities are eligible for Regional Grant Applications:

- Communications
- Training

#### Regional Applicants

Any regional communications plan must comply with your Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the SCIP must have been approved by DHS.

#### Wellness and Fitness

- Costs for consultants such as nutritionists and fitness trainers are <u>not eligible</u>.
- Costs for incentives to participate in wellness and fitness programs are not eligible.

### Questions?



# What's New for 2009?



#### **EMS** Response

The focus on the level of response for EMS services has changed from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS).

### Wellness and Fitness <a href="mailto:Three-Highest Priorities">Three Highest Priorities</a>

- Entry level physicals
- Physical assessment for on board active fire and EMS personnel
- Immunizations for fire and EMS personnel

#### **Next Level of Priority**

- Candidate physical agility assessments
- Physical fitness equipment

#### **Modifications to Facilities**

- Structures built after 2003 are not eligible for funding.
- Stations with sleeping quarters and occupied 24/7 are the highest priority.
- Exhaust extraction systems are a higher priority.

#### **Vehicle Acquisition**

- Grantees must comply with Chapter 6 of NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program.
- Standard operating procedures should require that all vehicle occupants wear seatbelts and that drivers obey all traffic signals, signs and laws.

### **Electronic Scoring Two Important Facts**

- 1. The answers to many questions in your application have values assigned to them.
- 2. The answers that most closely align with the program's priorities will score the highest.

#### **Funding Priorities**

Check the "Priorities" section of the Program Guidance before deciding what items or programs you will request assistance in this year.

#### **Excess Funds**

Up to fifty percent of a grant's excess funds may be used for training and/or wellness and fitness\* initiatives.

Any use of excess funds in this area must be approved by DHS in an amendment request.

<sup>\*</sup> Limited to the three W&F requisites.

# Planning and Developing a Narrative







All three grants opportunities require a narrative, each with specific elements that <u>must</u> be addressed.

#### The AFG Narrative

### Four elements **MUSt** be addressed

- Project Description And Project Budget
- Financial Need
- Cost/Benefit
- Effect on Daily Operations



### **Key Points: Narrative**

- Remember, your peers will be reading your narrative, so write the narrative to make your need clear to them.
- Relate only local information not national statistics.
- Provide only information the reviewers don't know.
- Remember to discuss the training program and your plan to move toward 100% compliance with NFPA 1001.

# Narrative: Project Description and Project Budget

- Who are you?
- Where are you?
- What is your identified risk/problem?
- What is your solution/remedy?
- What standards will be met?
- How much will it cost?





### Narrative: Financial Need

- Why do you need money from the Federal government?
- Briefly describe your income compared to your expenses to illustrate your current funding deficiencies.
- Explain your other attempts to fund needs.
- Explain financial and community trends or changes.

### Narrative: Cost/Benefit



Explain what benefits you will realize in return for the grant funds.

- Frequency of use vs. cost
- Increased efficiency of operation
- Most economical solution
- Interoperability
- Consequences of not receiving award

## Narrative: Effect on Daily Operations

- How will this grant improve firefighter safety and reduce loss of life and property?
- Discuss frequency of use.
- Describe how you will measure results.

### Narrative: Helpful Hints

- Write the narrative offline.
- Make sure that the narrative is complete before you submit your application.
- Seek a third-party review.
- Avoid using templates and brand names.
- Once the application has been submitted it cannot be changed!

# Narrative Scoring Exercise

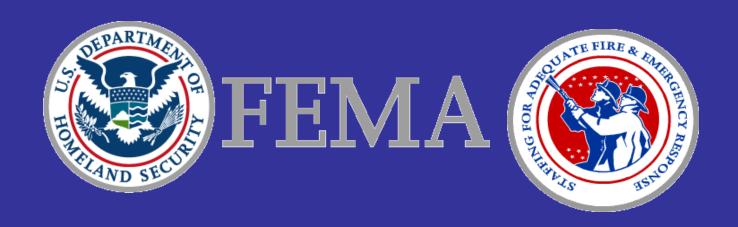
- Review and score the narrative.
- Each element has the same weight.
- Your summary score should reflect the total score of all four elements.

Please complete your rating in 15 minutes.

### Time is up



# Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Overview



### 2009 SAFER Funding

\$210 Million<br/>for<br/>SAFER Grants

### SAFER Eligible Activities

- Hiring of Firefighters Activity (five years with match)
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity (up to 4 years with no match)

### **SAFER**Hiring Firefighters

#### Purpose

- Improve the ability of fire departments to assemble a sufficient number of firefighters at a structure fire in compliance with the applicable sections of NFPA 1710 and 1720.
- Assist fire departments in reaching <u>four</u> <u>person staffing</u> on first-arriving suppression unit for structure fires as listed in OSHA 1910.134g.

# SAFER Eligible Applicants Hiring of Firefighters Activity

- Career departments
- Combination departments
- Volunteer departments

### **SAFER Match for Hiring**

Grantees must match an increasing portion of the salary over a 5-year period.

- Federal Share year one: up to 90%
- Federal Share year two: 80%
- Federal Share year three: 50%
- Federal Share year four: 30%
- Grantee match year five: 100%

## **Key Factors for Hiring of Firefighters Activity**

#### **Grantees must maintain:**

- The number of authorized and funded firefighter positions at the time of application
- The awarded SAFER-funded firefighter positions
- Throughout the entire five-year period of performance.

### SAFER

### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters

#### Purpose

- Assist departments that are experiencing a high rate of turnover to maintain and/or increase staffing
- Increase departments staffing to comply with assembly requirements of NFPA and four-person staffing per OSHA

### SAFER Eligible Applicants

### Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity

- Volunteer departments
- Combination departments
- State and local organizations with an interest in volunteer firefighters

## SAFER Match for Recruitment and Retention

There is

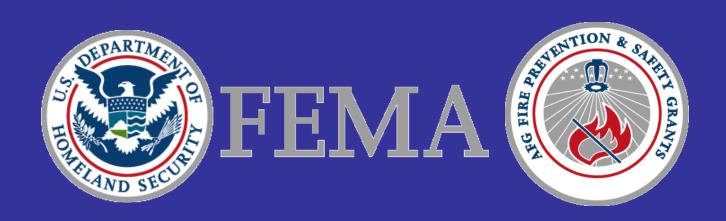
NO MATCH

for Recruitment and Retention
grants!

### **SAFER Funding Limits**

- 10% of funding is designated for hiring of firefighters in volunteer or mostly volunteer departments.
- 10% of funding is designated for Recruitment and Retention activities.
- \$111,523 limit for each firefighter position spread over the life of the grant.

# Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Research and Development



### FP&S Funding

The allocation for Fire Prevention and Safety in 2009 is \$35 million (no less than 5% of the AFG appropriation).

### FP&S

#### **Examples of Eligible Projects**

- Public safety education
- Code enforcement/awareness
- Arson prevention/awareness
- Juvenile fire-setter programs
- Sprinkler awareness
- Smoke alarm distribution
- Burn prevention
- Firefighter safety R&D

### FP&S Eligible Applicants

Any organization that has experience in fire prevention activities or that conducts research in fire safety activities is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

#### FP&S Match

For fire departments, the match is based on population:

- less than 20,000 = 5%
- between 20,000 and 50,000 = 10%
- over 50,000 = 20%

For other applicants, there is no cost share.

### **Procurement Integrity**

- Competition
- Documentation
- Specifications
- Conflicts of Interest

### Competition

- Grantees are expected to promote competition. This means soliciting pricing from multiple manufacturers.
- Purchases should be made as a result of the competition – from the manufacturer who best meets the requirements and provides the grantee with the best price and quality.
- The timeliness of delivery should be considered when making these decisions.

#### **Documentation**

 Grantees are required to maintain documentation related to their purchases.

 Grantees who fail to document their purchases may find that their expenditures will be disallowed.

### **Specifications**

- Specifications shall clearly describe the requirements of the product to be purchased or contracted.
- However, specifications may not be written in a way that unduly limits, restricts, or eliminates competition unnecessarily.

### **Specifications**

- Grantees cannot impose in-State or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals.
- Any vendor who provides (directly or indirectly) specifications for any purchase is prohibited from submitting a bid for that purchase.

### **Specifications**

- Do not indicate "brand names" in your application or in your specifications.
- Grantees that specify "brand name" products may be asked to provide DHS with their procurement documents (such as requests for proposals, invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates).

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

Members of your department who work for vendors/manufacturers cannot . . .

- Work on the application
- Develop specifications, or
- Develop statements of work, or
- Participate in the procurement of any requested item in the grant.

#### Conflicts?

- Volunteers
- Employees
- Members
- Officers
- Family Members
- Grant Writers

May not benefit from the procurement of any item or contracted service purchased with grant funds.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

Grantees who purchase items from vendors who employ any of their volunteers/members must document how they avoided a conflict of interest during the procurement process.

### **Applicant Assistance**

Regional Points of Contact:

http://www.firegrantsupport.com/prog/contact.aspx

- Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960
- Email: <u>firegrants@dhs.gov</u>
- Website: <u>www.firegrantsupport.com</u>

### Questions



### Thank you





